



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

July 16, 2010

Mr. Kenneth R. Feinberg  
1455 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Suite 390  
Washington, DC 20004-1008

Dear Mr. Feinberg:

As you begin the arduous task of setting up the \$20 billion BP oil spill compensation fund and Gulf Coast Claims Facility, I respectfully request that you consider utilizing two existing community assets – an experienced workforce and fully equipped building – in the Florida Panhandle.

Sallie Mae, Inc. owns a 133,000 sq. ft. building in Lynn Haven, Florida, which has the capacity to hold up to 1,300 workers. There are currently 605 full-time workers on location, with training and expertise in high-level customer service, sales, and collections. The facility possesses a state-of-the-art call center, enhanced document imagery machines, and has handled over \$26 billion in electronic fund transfers and disbursements for fiscal year 2010.

Northwest Florida has been hit hard by the recession and because of recent changes to the federal student loan system, Sallie Mae is expected to close this facility and lay off their entire workforce by November. This unfortunate situation is something that Congressman Allen Boyd and I have been working to mitigate for the last two years. Exacerbating the already dire economic situation is the Deepwater Horizon disaster, which is expected to put a damper on the seafood and tourism industry for many months if not years to come, resulting in even more jobs lost in the Panhandle region.

The community assets in Lynn Haven present an opportunity for you to employ a professional and experienced staff to efficiently process what will surely be a mountain of claims, and to help Florida's Gulf Coast economy. I strongly urge you to use these assets to carry out the mission of the BP oil compensation fund and Gulf Coast Claims Facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sen. Bill Nelson